

Message Text

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14
ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1946

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, NZ
SUBJ: CIVAIR: REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 210217, (B) WELLINGTON 3215

1. FRASER NORTON, CONTROLLER OF AIR SERVICES POLICIES

ADVISED E/C COUNSELOR ON SEPTEMBER 3 THAT AN OFFICIAL REPLY TO EMBASSY NOTE REQUESTING CONSULTATION SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY EMBASSY SOMETIME DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY CALENDAR OF THE GNZ CIVAIR OFFICIALS THERE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY TIME FREE BEFORE OCTOBER 18 FOR US-NZ "TALKS". HE EXPLAINED THAT A REGIONAL CIVIL AVIATION MEETING WAS SCHEDULED IN APIA, WESTERN SAMOA STARTING SEPTEMBER 22. CONSULTATIONS WERE SCHEDULED WITH AUSTRALIA IN OCTOBER. BETWEEN PREPARATIONS FOR AND ATTENDANCE AT THESE MEETINGS, GNZ CIVIL AVIATION PEOPLE WOULD BE TIED UP. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT IT SEEMED IN ANY CASE DOUBTFUL THAT ALL THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE US-NZ "TALKS" COULD BE READY MUCH BEFORE OCTOBER.

2. NORTON VENTURED THAT ONE POSSIBILITY FOR AN EARLIER DATE MIGHT BE IF HE, NORTON, WERE TO REMAIN IN WELLINGTON DURING THE MEETING IN WESTERN SAMOA (SEPTEMBER 22-24) AND THE

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SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT, A.J. EDWARDS, WOULD HANDLE THAT

MEETING WITHOUT NORTON. HE CAUTIONED THAT THIS POSSIBILITY
WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE NOTE BUT THAT HE WAS MENTIONING
IT UNOFFICIALLY TO BE HELPFUL.

3. OTHER THAN OBSERVING THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF AIR
NEW ZEALAND'S PLAN TO INCREASE ITS FREQUENCIES ON NOVEMBER
1, 1976, OCTOBER 18 SEEMED TO BE VERY LATE FOR THE US-NZ
CONSULTATIONS, E/C COUNSELOR LIMITED HIMSELF TO SAYING THAT
HE WOULD ADVISE WASHINGTON URGENTLY OF DATES NORTON
MENTIONED.

4. IT ISNOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT THE SUGGESTED LATE DATE
FOR INITIATING CONSULTATIONS IS PROMPTED BY REAL PROBLEMS OF TIM-
ING AND TO WHAT EXTENT THEY ARE AN EFFORT TO DELAY. THE
SEPTEMBER 22 - 24 DATE COULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO NORTON TO SERVE
AS THE GNZ SPOKESMAN DURING CONSULTATIONS. THE EMBASSY
DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE DESIRABLE.

5. IF, CONTRARY TO NORTON'S QUESTIONING THAT THE DATA
NEEDED CAN BE READY MUCH BEFORE OCTOBER, THE DEPARTMENT WISHES
THE EMBASSY TO PRESS FOR AN EARLIER DATE, WE ARE PREPARED
TO DO THIS. AN INDICATION OF THE DATES, INCLUDING EARLIEST
DATE, THAT CONSULTATIONS COULD BE CONVENIENTLY SCHEDULED
HERE WOULD HELP.
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